

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 DHA-02 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 MCT-01 /096 W  
----- 032603 /17

R 161740Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4172  
INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS GUTEMALA 8403

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM GT  
SUBJECT: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL STUDY REPORTED IN GUATEMALAN PRESS

1. CONSERVATIVE DAILY NEWSPAPER PRENSA LIBRE DECEMBER 14  
CARRIED STORY ON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI) REPORT WHICH  
SAYS THAT 20,000 GUATEMALANS HAVE BEEN KILLED IN PAST TEN  
YEARS BY PARAMILITARY GROUPS OR SECURITY FORCES. STORY,  
CARRIED BY REUTERS-LATIN WIRE SERVICE OUT OF LONDON, IS  
APPARENTLY BASED ON SAME STUDY REPORTED BY MIAMI HERLAD  
ON DECEMBER 13 AS HAVING BEEN ISSUED BY AI ON DECEMBER 12.

2. PRENSA LIBRE STORY QUOTES AI REPORT AS SAYING,  
"ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES HAVE ALWAYS  
OFFICIALLY DENIED THEIR RESPONSIBILITY, MEMBERS OF THE  
GOVERNMENT HAVE INDIVIDUALLY ADMITTED GOVERNMENT  
PARTICIPATION, AND HAVE JUSTIFIED THE ACTIONS AS A  
NECESSARY RESPONSE TO LEFTIST VIOLENCE AND COMMON  
DELINQUENCY".

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3. ON THE SUBJECT OF "DEATH SQUADS" AI SAYS THAT "FOR  
THE FIRST TIME CIVILIANS ARE SYSTEMATICALLY INCORPORATED  
INTO THE SECURITY APPARATUS ON A SEMIPERMANENT BASIS."  
STUDY ADDS THAT SINCE JULY 1974 INAUGURATION OF  
PRESIDENT LAUGERUD UNTIL APRIL 1976 AI HAS LOGGED 379  
CASES OF MURDER AND DISAPPEARANCES. HOWEVER, RECENT

ACTIONS, INCLUDING MINISTERIAL CHANGES (MIAMI HERALD STORY QUOTES REPORT AS REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO CHANGE IN MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT FROM GENRAL LEONEL VASSAUX TO DONALDO ALVAREZ) SUGGEST THAT PRESIDENT LAUGERUD "COULD BE ACTING TO STOP THE ROUTINE ASSASSINATIONS AND DISAPPEARANCES."

4. AI FIGURE OF 20,000 DEAD WAS ALSO RAISED BY CONGRESSMAN HARRINGTON (BUT FOR MORE LIMITED PERIOD OF 1968-71) IN HIS WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR FRASER HEARINGS. ACCORDING TO STORY AI ADMITS 20,000 FIGURE IS IMPOSSIBLE TO VERIFY.

5. COMMENT: PRESS STORY GIVES IMPRESSION THAT AI REPORT IS HISTORICAL STUDY OF VIOLENCE IN GUATEMALA OVER PAST DECADE AND DOES NOT APPEAR TO RAISE NEW CHARGES AGAINST LAUGERUD ADMINISTRATIONS. STORY HAS NOT BEEN PICKED UP BY ANY OTHER NEWSPAPER.  
ANDREWS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 DEC 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Subject:** AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL STUDY REPORTED IN GUATEMALAN PRESS  
**TAGS:** SHUM, GT, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, (LAUGERUD GARCIA, KJELL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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